

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 INT-05 GSA-02 ERDA-07 ACDA-10 EB-08 FTC-01
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /104 W
-----122193 052034Z /65

P 052018Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4357
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 07096

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: ANTI-TRUST: CONSERVATIVES DEMAND PROBE OF URANIUM
CARTEL

1. SUMMARY: PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES (PC) LAUNCHED SHARP ATTACK, DURING AUGUST 4 QUESTION PERIOD, ON GOVERNMENT CONCERNING ITS SUPPORT OF URANIUM CARTEL. PC CLAIMS GOVERNMENT ACTIONS WERE ILLEGAL AND HURT CANADIAN CONSUMERS. GOVERNMENT REJECTED PC DEMAND FOR OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO ITS ACTIONS, CONTENDING THEY WERE LEGAL AND NECESSARY TO PROTECT CANADIAN URANIUM PRODUCERS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING AUG. 4 QUESTION PERIOD PC LAUNCHED RIGOROUS AND DETERMINED ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT CONCERNING ITS ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL URANIUM PRICE-FIXING CARTEL. EXCHANGE UNCLASSIFIED

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RAN OVER ALLOTTED QUESTION PERIOD TIME AND DELAYED PIPELINE DEBATE, WHICH WAS REASON FOR SPECIAL AUGUST 4-5 SESSION.

3. PC LEADER JOE CLARK DEMANDED IMMEDIATE OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO GOC ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF CARTEL. HE SAID CARTEL, BY RAISING DOMESTIC URANIUM PRICES, INJURED CANADIAN

CONSUMERS AND PROBABLY VIOLATED COMBINES INVESTIGATIONS ACT. CLARK CHARGED THAT SEPTEMBER 1976 ORDER-IN-COUNCIL RESTRICTING TRANSFER OF INFORMATION ABOUT CARTEL WAS ATTEMPT TO COVER-UP ILLEGAL GOC ACTIONS.

4. PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU DEFENDED GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT OF CARTEL, CONTENDING THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO SHIELD CANADIAN URANIUM PRODUCERS FROM USG PROTECTIONIST MEASURES IN EARLY 1970'S. FURTHER, HE SAID JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OPINION SUPPORTS LEGALITY OF GOC ACTIONS. HE REFUSED, HOWEVER, TO TABLE OPINION IN HOUSE. PRIME MINISTER REBUTTED OPPOSITION ATTACK ON ORDER-IN-COUNCIL, SAYING THAT PC INSISTENCE ON PUBLICIZING CONTENTS OF SECRET GOC DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO CARTEL ON FREEDOM-OF-INFORMATION GROUNDS SIMPLY AIDS WESTINGHOUSE ANTI-TRUST SUIT. REJECTING DEMAND FOR INQUIRY, PM TOLD CLARK THAT IF PC MEMBERS OR ANY OTHER CANADIAN THINKS GOC ACTED ILLEGALLY, THEY HAVE RECOURSE IN COURTS. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, ANTITRUST, CARTELS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA07096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770281-0904
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770893/aaaadaky.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9af36f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1698508
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-TRUST: CONSERVATIVES DEMAND PROBE OF URANIUM CARTEL
TAGS: ETRD, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9af36f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009